Shortage of funds in Sardar Sarovar Project

2708. PROF. ALKA BALRAM KSHATRIYA: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Sardar Sarovar Project is a multi-purpose project which will benefit the four States of Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Rajasthan and Gujarat by way of sharing of irrigation facilities and power generation;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the project is facing acute shortage of funds which is hampering the completion of 101 Kms. stretch of Narmada Main Canal;

(c) whether the State have made a request to the Central Government for additional funds to ensure the completion of the project; and

(d) if so, what is Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (PROF. SAIF-UD-DIN SOZ): (a) The Sardar Sarovar Project is an inter-state multi-purpose project on the river Narmada in Gujarat. It is a joint venture with sharing of irrigation and power from the project, among the states of Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Rajasthan and Gujarat.

(b) to (d) At present, construction of main canal carrying water from Sardar Sarovar Dam upto Rajasthan border is completed upto 357 kms length out of its total length of 458 kms in Gujarat. As reported by Government of Gujarat, it is planned to complete remaining 101 kms upto Rajasthan border by October, 2006.

Keeping in view the need to accelerate the construction of Narmada Main Canal and distributaries for early development of irrigation facilities in the command area of the project, the Government of India has decided to include Sardar Sarovar Project under Accelerated Irrigation Benefits Programme (AIBP). Under this Programme, Government of India has released Central Loan Assistance (CLA)/grant of Rs. 4415.85 crore from the financial years 1996-97 to March, 2006, out of which Rs. 339.60 crore was released as grant during the financial year 2005-06.

The project or project component could be included in the programme of Central financial assistance on the basis of proposals submitted by the State Government and eligibility of project for inclusion in the programme as per eligibility criteria of the programme.